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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (05/26): PALESTINIANS: NO  
ISRAELI CHANGE WITHOUT U.S. PRESSURE

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Main Stories:  
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Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida lead with, Al-Quds front pages statements by Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas made in Ottawa on May 25. Abbas reiterates that the Palestinian Authority will not negotiate with Israel until Israel agrees to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and halts all settlement activity. Abbas adds that his meetings with President Obama on May 28 will focus on the conditions necessary for pursuing peace talks with Israel. In related news, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's front page highlights May 25 statements by French President Sarkozy supporting the two-state solution and calling for a halt to settlement activities. Meanwhile, Al-Ayyam runs a back page cartoon of Israeli Premier Netanyahu sitting among dozens of dictionaries trying to find a replacement for the term, "Palestine" without success.

Al-Quds leads with and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages news of Israeli political support for the introduction of loyalty oaths by Arab citizens of Israel to the, "Jewish, Zionist and democratic state." The wire coverage notes that Yisrael Betenu party is leading the push that would require the oath of any Arab resident of Israel seeking Israeli nationality or an Israeli ID card for the first time. The proposed legislation would also make military service obligatory for Arab residents.

Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front page news citing Israeli daily Haaretz about the visit of a U.S. Congressional delegation led by Congressman Ackerman. According to coverage, the delegation met with Israeli officials on May 24 and conveyed "tough messages" regarding continued settlement expansion in the West Bank. The delegation also expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, according to coverage.

Al-Ayyam runs a large front page photo of a warning leaflets dropped by the Israeli military on the Gaza Strip on May 25. The leaflet warns Gazans to remain 300 meters from the Israeli border fence or risk being shot. All dailies highlight the leaflets.

In nuclear news, only Al-Quds runs a front page wire story about the May 25 North Korean nuclear test. Regarding Iran, Al Quds' front page also reports that Israeli Defense Minister Barak will meet with Secretary Clinton next week in Washington to discuss the Iranian nuclear program. Separate front page reporting in Al Quds run an AFP story quoting Israeli Premier Netanyahu noting that Israel may attack Iran, because, "If Israel does not start the attack, no one will."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's front page cites wafa in reporting on additional attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians. According to coverage, settlers from Bayt Yeter and Ma'un in the Hebron area, "aggressively attacked" five Palestinian farmers and burned their farms on May 25.

In economic news, Al- Hayat Al-Jadida's front page and Al-Ayyam's inside page report on the Palestinian Authority (PA) Minister of Housing & Public Works announcing on May 25 that the PA will be injecting \$3.5 million into the Palestinian economy by way of contracts to local companies.

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Monday May, 26:  
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The three dailies highlighted coverage on U.S. reaction to Israeli Premier Netanyahu's comments about a "unified" Jerusalem, quoting State Department spokesman Kelly commenting that Jerusalem is a final status issue and that the U.S. will support Israeli and Palestinian efforts to reach agreement on all final status issues. Al-Hayat Al-Jadida highlights the story on its front-page under the headline, "U.S. rebuffs Netanyahu's remarks on Jerusalem."

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida led with, "Three Israeli NOs to the Palestinian state: Sovereignty, return to the 1967 borders, and freezing settlement activities." Al-Ayyam's lead story noted that the Israeli "NOs" are a direct challenge to U.S. policy. In contrast, Al Hayat Al Jadida's front page also carries comments by Palestinian Authority President Abbas showing support for the U.S. in confirming that President Obama is serious about resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

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Weekend Stories:  
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Sunday May 24:

"Fatah will go united into its sixth party conference at the beginning of July and use all its power to enhance the President's [Abbas'] authority," according to Al Ayyam's and Al Quds' front pages. The Fatah Commission for Mobilization and Organization released a statement stressing that "all speculation about divisions within the movement will prove untrue. The legal, constitutional, and national role of [Palestinian Authority] President Abbas... is not subject to any interpretation or bargaining." The statement also highlighted the importance of successful Palestinian unity talks and denounced negative Israeli policies in Jerusalem.

News related to settlement activity appeared in several front page weekend stories. Al Quds' ran remarks by Palestinian Authority (PA) Foreign Minister Al Malki from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting on May 23, calling on the OIC to protect Jerusalem from Israel's attack on its Arab identity. Al Ayyam ran the results of a report by Israeli NGO Peace Now claiming that 2,000 Israelis live "in the heart of" Palestinian neighborhoods in occupied East Jerusalem as part of an Israeli Government plan. Both papers highlighted remarks by the well-known Palestinian Abdel Qader Al Hussayni, who responded to Israeli authorities shutting down a

literature event in Jerusalem by noting, "as we predicted, the celebration of Al Quds as a [UNESCO] capital of Arab Culture is taking place in... guerilla-war style." Finally, Saturday's papers reported on Israel evacuating illegal outposts in an attempt to soften the U.S. position on Israeli settlements, while "members of a Jewish settlement society 'Fund for lands of Israel' entered a house in Sheikh Jarrah [East Jerusalem] and changed the locks to prevent Palestinian residents from returning."

Saturday, May 23:

Al Quds' front page ran excerpts of remarks by Vice President Biden in Lebanon, highlighting that the U.S. considers the Palestinian issue "a cornerstone for resolving the region's problems." Biden also reiterated U.S. commitment to the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, according to coverage.

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BLOCK QUOTES:

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1) Dr. Naji Shurrah opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title, "Reading through Obama's peace proposal" (05/26): "How will

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Palestinians and Arabs react to Obama's peace plan [which will be announced in Cairo] and to the serious American intention to participate in the peace process? This time, I urge Arabs and Palestinians not to reject any provision of the plan. Leave rejection to Israel because Obama is different from Bush. He is more determined and more serious about achieving peace and can exert pressure on Israel. The U.S. now is capable of containing Israeli extremism and restoring the U.S. role as mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - a role which was lost during the previous administration."

2) Muhannad Abdil Hamid opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "How much longer will Netanyahu be arrogant towards Obama?" (05/26): "Anyone who studies the policies of the U.S. and Israeli administrations will see how large the gap is between the policies regarding settlements, Jerusalem or the independent Palestinian state... We have learned over the years that we should not expect any changes in Israeli policy unless the U.S. exerts pressure on Israel. So will Obama exert serious pressure on Israel? If yes, then how & when?"

WALLES